CHAPTER 3

I. SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE FINDINGS RELATED TO LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH
    AGENCY INVOLVMENT IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Number of Community Coalitions: 54% of local public health agencies work with up to 5 different community groups. Forty-five percent (45%) work with more than 5 distinct community organizations. (See Introductory Question Graph and Data Table.)

Structure of Community Coalition: 79% of local agencies describe the community group they work with most closely as being organized to achieve multiple purposes and for a long term. The primary community group tends to have a formal structure, is unincorporated, and 45% of them are fully supported by membership. Only 4% of agencies work most directly with a community group that is fully supported by professional staff. Thirty-seven percent (37%) of agencies work primarily with a group that is supported by a combination of professional staff and membership. Eighty-three percent (83%) of these groups are open to new members. (See Graphs 9.A. thru 9.E., and Data Tables 9.A. thru 9.E.)

Leadership For Community Groups: 32% of local agencies say that members elect the leader of their primary community group, and 31% say that the leadership is rotated among the membership. Ten percent (10%) of agencies work with a group where the leader is appointed by a board, and 14% of agencies say paid staff leads the community group. (See Graph 10.A. and Data Table 10.A.)
Seventy-six percent (76%) of agencies report that someone from their agency serves in a leadership position for their primary community group. (See Graph 10.B. and Data Table 10.B.)

Decision Making Process: 45% of agencies report that decisions are reached by consensus within the community group they work with most, and 53% of agencies say their primary community group makes decisions by majority rule. (See Graph 11. and Data Table 11.)

Membership of Community Groups: 87% of local agencies work closest with a group whose membership comes primarily from community organizations. Eleven percent (11%) of agencies work with a group primarily made up of individual professionals, and only 1% work closest with a grassroots community group. (See Graph 12.A. and Data Table 12.A.)

Size of Community Groups: 57% of local agencies work closest with a community group that has a membership of 20 or less. An additional 24% of agencies work primarily with a group with 21 to 40 members. (See Graph 12.B.2. and Data Table 12.B.2.)

Functioning of Community Group: the level of functioning by community groups can range from networking, coordinating, cooperating, and planning, to full collaboration. Sixty-one percent (61%) of agencies work primarily with a group that they consider to be collaborating. An additional 18% of agencies believe their primary community group functions at the next lower level, that of planning. (See Graph 12.C. and Data Table 12.C.)

Community Health Planning Activities: the percentage of agencies working closely with a group that is either leading the process or actively involved in a community health planning process is as follows:

Community Group Activity	Percentage of Agencies
Community Health Assessment	91%
Community Resource Assessment	81%
Establishing a Community Health Vision	85%
Defining a Mission for the Community Group	78%
Identifying Community Health Problems	94%
Prioritization of Problems	94%
Setting Short Term Goals and Objectives	82%
Setting Long Term Goals and Objectives	81%
Identifying Evidence Based Strategies	73%
Adopting Strategies	84%
Specifying Needed Resources	92%
Budget Development	49%
Work Plan Preparation	72%
Plan Implementation	72%
Monitoring of the Plan and the Process	66%
Conducting Evaluation	62%

(See Graphs 12.D.1. thru 12.D.16. and Data Tables 12.D.1. thru 12.D.16.)

Agencies' Role Within Community Groups: nearly 90% of local public health agencies report being active participants in their primary coalition, assisting with planning and research, providing information and public health expertise. Over 70% of local agencies also provide leadership and resources for this community group. (See Graphs 12.E.1. and Data Table 12.E.1.)